

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 SINGAP 00262 191106Z
ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 L-03 /046 W

-----191355Z 094568 /44

R 191021Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6947
INFO SECDEF WASHDC //DOD/ISA//

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 0262

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, SN
SUBJ: USAF TRAINING TEAM

REF: A. SINGAPORE 0037; B. STATE 009860

1. EMBASSY/DAO HAS REVIEWED PROPOSED CHANGES IN LOA SUBMITTED
REF B WITH PERMSEC MINDEF PANG WHO FOUND THEM ACCEPTABLE.

2. FOLLOWING IS PROPOSED TEXT OF EXCHANGE OF LETTERS BETWEEN
AMBASSADOR AND MINISTER GOH (TEXT WILL NOT BE CLEARED WITH
MINDEF UNTIL STATE/DOD CONFIRM APPROVAL).

DEAR MR. MINISTER:

IN MAY 1975 YOUR PRIME MINISTER PRESENTED AN AIDE MEMOIRE
TO OUR SECRETARY OF DEFENSE NOTING THE INCREASED ACQUISITION
OF AMERICAN AIRCRAFT FOR THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE AIR FORCE
(RSAF) AND REQUESTING UNITED STATES ASSISTANCE IN IMPROVING
THE COMMAND, STAFF AND TRAINING FUNCTIONS OF THE RSAF. IN
RESPONSE TO THIS REQUEST YOU WILL RECALL THAT A USAF TEAM VISITED
SINGAPORE IN OCTOBER 1975 AND STUDIES THE ORGANIZATION,
TRAINING AND MANAGEMENT OF THE RSAF.

AS A RESULT OF INFORMATION OBTAINED FROM YOUR OFFICIALS
AS WELL AS FROM ITS OWN OBSERVATIONS, THE SURVEY TEAM IDENTIFIED
THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM AREAS WHICH COULD RESTRICT THE DEVELOP-

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MENT OF AN EFFECTIVE AND SELF-SUFFICIENT AIR FORCE. THESE
PROBLEMS SPAN THE FUNCTIONAL AREAS OF OPERATIONS, ENGINEERING,
MANPOWER AND COMMAND AND CONTROL. THE TEAM CONCLUDED THAT
AMERICAN TRAINING IN EACH OF THESE FUNCTIONAL AREAS WOULD
CONTRIBUTE SIGNIFICANTLY TO THE ACHIEVEMENT OF A MANAGERIALLY
SELF-SUFFICIENT RSAF.

TO IMPLEMENT THE SURVEY TEAM'S RECOMMENDATIONS I WISH TO PROPOSE (A) THE TEMPORARY ASSIGNMENT TO SINGAPORE OF A MANAGEMENT TRAINING ASSISTANCE TEAM (MTAT) COMPOSED OF FIVE USAF OFFICERS FOR A MAXIMUM PERIOD OF TWO YEARS AND (B) EXTENSIVE PROFESSIONAL AND TECHNICAL SCHOOLING IN THE UNITED STATES FOR RSAF PERSONNEL, BOTH ELEMENTS TO BE FUNDED UNDER THE FMS CASH SALES PROGRAM.

THE TASK OF THE MTAT WOULD BE TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND ASSISTANCE IN MANAGEMENT TECHNIQUES TO KEY STAFF ELEMENTS OF THE RSAF FOR A PERIOD OF UP TO TWO YEARS. THIS ARRANGEMENT WOULD HAVE THE ADVANTAGE OF PROVIDING MANAGEMENT TRAINING TO THE RSAF WHILE IT DEVELOPS STAFF EXPERTISE. THE CONCURRENT SCHOOLING PROGRAM IN THE UNITED STATES WOULD PROVIDE A LONG-TERM BASE TO ENSURE A CONTINUING FLOW OF PROPERLY TRAINED OFFICERS TO THE RSAF.

I PROPOSE THAT THE MTAT FUNCTION IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS SET FORTH IN APPENDIX A, AND BE FUNDED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISIONS OF THE LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE SET FORTH IN APPENDIX B. SUBSEQUENT LETTERS OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE TO BE NEGOTIATED SEPARATELY WOULD COVER THE FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS FOR VARIOUS GROUPS OF RSAF PERSONNEL RECEIVING PROFESSIONAL TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES.

IN IMPLEMENTING THIS AGREEMENT I PROPOSE THAT PERSONNEL OF THE MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE TEAM HAVE THE SAME RIGHTS, PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES AS MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL (HOME BASED) STAFF OF THE UNITED STATES EMBASSY
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EXCEPT AS OTHERWISE SET FORTH IN THE ENCLOSED LETTER OF OFFER AND ACCEPTANCE. IN ADDITION, THESE PERSONNEL SHALL BE ACCORDED THE SAME PREROGATIVES AS MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES OF SINGAPORE AND SECONDED COMMONWEALTH PERSONNEL OF EQUIVALENT RANK.

THIS LETTER AND YOUR REPLY CONCURRING IN ITS PROVISIONS AS WELL AS THE PROVISIONS OF THE APPENDICES ATTACHED HERETO SHALL CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.
SINCERELY,
JOHN H. HOLDRIDGE
AMERICAN AMBASSADOR

DEAR MR. AMBASSADOR:

I HAVE RECEIVED YOUR LETTER OF ----- SETTING FORTH YOUR PROPOSAL TO ASSIGN A FIVE-MAN MILITARY TRAINING ASSISTANCE TEAM TO SINGAPORE FOR A TWO YEAR PERIOD AND TO PROVIDE PROFESSIONAL TRAINING FOR RSAF PERSONNEL IN THE UNITED STATES.

ON BEHALF OF THE GOVERNMENT OF SINGAPORE I ACCEPT ALL THE

PROVISIONS OF YOUR LETTER OF ----- AND THE APPENDICES ATTACHED THERETO.

IT IS MY UNDERSTANDING THAT YOUR LETTER AND THIS REPLY CONSTITUTE AN AGREEMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS.

SINCERELY,

DR. GOH KENG SWEE

DEPUTY PRIME MINISTER AND

MINISTER OF DEFENCE

3. DOD SHOULD BE ADVISED THAT EMBASSY/DAO QUESTION WHETHER PHRASE "OR OTHER TAXES" INSERTED IN PARA 9 OF LOA (SEE PARA 5 REF B) WILL SERVE TO EXEMPT MTAT PERSONNEL FROM ANNUAL ROAD TAX WHICH IS CONSIDERED BY GOS TO BE A LICENSING FEE RATHER THAN A TAX ASSOCIATED WITH THE PURCHASE OF A VEHICLE. PERMSEC PANG WAS UNCERTAIN ABOUT THIS. HOWEVER, UNLESS DEPT WISHES TO PROPOSE ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE WHICH WILL CLARIFY THIS POINT WE
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ARE INCLINED NOT TO REOPEN THIS PARAGRAPH FOR DISCUSSION. TO OBTAIN A DEFINITIVE RESOLUTION OF THIS QUESTION WOULD PROBABLY INVOLVE REFERRING NEW TEXT TO MINFINANCE AND THIS WOULD INVOLVE INORDINATE DELAY (ROAD TAX FOR A SMALL CAR WOULD BE APPROXIMATELY U.S. \$200).

4. SINCE THE EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WOULD APPEAR TO CONSTITUTE A SIGNIFICANT EXECUTIVE AGREEMENT, EMBASSY ASSUMES DEPT HAS CHECKED TO DETERMINE WHETHER REQUIREMENTS OF CIRCULAR 175 HAVE BEEN MET.

5. PLEASE ADVISE WHETHER AGREEMENT FALLS WITHIN PURVIEW OF CASE ACT.

6. EMBASSY WOULD PREFER THAT EXCHANGE OF LETTERS, LOA, TERMS OF REFERENCE, AND CONCEPT OF OPERATIONS BE DESIGNATED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT GOS WOULD UNDERSTAND WHY AGREEMENT SHOULD NOT BE CLASSIFIED, BUT BELIEVE IT WOULD BE SENSITIVE ABOUT HANDLING THE AGREEMENT IN A MANNER WHICH WOULD READILY ALLOW PUBLICATION OF THE FULL TEXT. GOS SENSITIVITY RELATES TO HYPOTHETICAL POLITICAL/DIPLOMATIC REPERCUSSIONS OF PUBLICITY CITING DETAILS OF MILITARY ASSISTANCE BEING RECEIVED FROM SUPER POWER. THEREFORE, WE TRUST IT WILL BE POSSIBLE TO DESIGNATE THIS AGREEMENT LOU. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY ASSISTANCE, MILITARY TRAINING
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977SINGAP00262
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770019-1298
Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770136/aaaabfus.tel
Line Count: 163
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 1ae0a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 77 SINGAPORE 37, 77 STATE 9860
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3557555
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: USAF TRAINING TEAM
TAGS: MASS, MORG, SN, US
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/1ae0a2d4-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
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